

**Minutes of the Valdosta State University Environmental Issues Committee Meeting
November 15, 2013** *(Approved February 5, 2014)*

Appointed Members in Attendance: Jason Allard (Chair), Theresa Grove (Chair-elect), Karen Noll, Lavonna Lovern, Linda Most, Larry Etling, Steven Scheuler, Tommy Crane, Candicee Childs, David Kuhlmeier (past chair), Tanya Lee, Bobby Flowers, Brad Bergstrom

Guests: Danielle Jordan, Meredith Lancaster, Benjamin Vieth, Blake Clark

Ex Officio: Ray Sable

Meeting called to Order 12:04 p.m.

A. Approve Minutes from October 3, 2013: Motion to approve minutes (Most), seconded by Noll. 14 yea, 1 abstention

B. Announcements

i. This is last EIC meeting of semester. Allard will send email out the first week of the spring semester to schedule meeting at end of January.

C. Old Business

i. Updates from sub-committee chairs

1. Energy (Noll)- An energy study indicates there is an increase in overall energy use in buildings; thus a reason for energy conservation. The subcommittee is looking at the possibility of digital and/or paper newsletter. They also have an idea for a roundtable in spring to discuss energy conservation, and the energy conservation competition between dorms will continue. Discussion ensued about how cold some buildings are kept, which makes some rooms uncomfortably cold. It was noted that in some buildings there has to be certain airflow/pressure for safety (e.g. positive pressure for fume hoods). An idea (from Lovern) was brought up to bring architects to join a roundtable discussion to help solve problems because the EIC doesn't have all needed expertise. The roundtable might result in feasible remodels that would help to reduce energy usage.

2. CBSS (Bergstrom)- The next meeting will be Wednesday at 4:00 and will include presentation by Drs. Bielmyer and Waters and their QEP environmental study of 1 Mile Branch. Physical plant did some water sampling, and maybe there could be some collaboration between biologists and physical plant to prevent redundancy and perhaps promote synergistic activities/results. 1 Mile Branch is a natural resource for the university community for both research and teaching purposes.

3. Recycling (Lancaster)- A fraternity is interested in being involved with the recycling competition. Their idea is to have the competition run for a longer period of time, and students would run it as a service project for their fraternity. There is some concern about the students doing it 1x and then stopping. The sub-committee would also like to make recycling activities more visible when students move out at the end of the semester with a donation center for Good Will or Salvation Army.

ii. Update on lighting policy- The EIC and the University committee looked at outdoor lighting and call boxes. During the walkthrough it was noted that some descriptions of problems were not specific enough so the committees could not identify some of the reported issues.

iii. Discussion/vote on EIC's support of S.A.V.E.'s divestment campaign- Students from S.A.V.E. (Jordan, Vieth, and Clark) presented more information about the request to the VSU Foundation to divest from companies that are involved with fossil fuel extraction. Jordan received a letter from the Foundation's board that was sarcastic and disparaging. Discussion ensued about the Foundation's "knee-jerk" response and that while they say it's a fiduciary decision, they (i.e. the Foundation) didn't conduct research to determine if returns from other investments would be better or at least equivalent to their current investment strategy. Most commented that the students should keep pushing individual trustees on the board. Lovern commented that the students should strengthen their argument. In addition, S.A.V.E. and the students involved should work to get other stakeholders involved including C.O.S.A. A motion was put forth by Bergstrom and seconded by Most that stated: "The EIC as a standing Committee of the Faculty Senate supports the efforts of S.A.V.E. (Students Against Violating the Environment) to encourage the VSU Foundation to consider divesting from fossil fuel extraction-based investments." EIC voted to support this statement (10 yea and 1 abstention). This will be forwarded to the Faculty Senate.

D. New Business

i. EIC/subcommittee presence in the Spectator- There was a brief discussion about EIC sending information to the Spectator. No information will be forwarded at this time.

ii. EIC website- Is outdated and needs to be updated.

iii. Other comments- There is a solar panel event today at 2:30p.m. outside the library.

E. Adjourned at 1:37p.m. Motion by Kuhlmeier, seconded by Lovern.